Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 IO-13 STR-04 CEA-01 /102 W

-----058394 031209Z /45

R 030809Z AUG 77 FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4247

CONFIDENTIAL DAMASCUS 4935

FOR SOBER FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, PFOR, SY, XF

SUBJECT: FIRST APPROACH TO CENTRAL BOYCOTT OFFICE

REF: STATE 179452

1. WISH ADVISE YOU OF PROCEDURES WE INTEND FOLLOW RE CONTACTS WITH CENTRAL BOYCOTT OFFICE DAMASCUS. PRIMARY PURPOSE OF CONTACTS WITH OFFICE WILL BE TO OBTAIN INFORMATION ON HOW OFFICE FUNCTIONS WHILE AVOIDING APPEARANCE OF COOPERATION OR CLOSE CONTACTS AT HIGH LEVEL. FOR THIS REASON, I DO NOT RPT NOT PLAN CALL ON COMMISSIONER GENERAL MAHJOUB. INSTEAD, CONTACTS WILL INITIALLY BE LIMITED TO EMBASSY'S ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL SECTION AT LEVEL APPRO-PRIATE TO MATTER. EMBASSY ECON OFFICER WILL CALL ON MATTERS AFFECTING GENERAL POLICY (SUCH AS US BOYCOTT LEGISLATION) OR INCIDENTS OF BOYCOTT AIMED AT US ORGANIZATIONS OTHER THAN BUSINESS FIRMS, (E.G. - THE MASONS (REFTEL)). COMMERCIAL OFFICER WILL ACCOMPANY US BUSINESS REPS, WHERE APPRO-PRIATE, TO BOYCOTT OFFICE WHILE REQUESTS FOR SIMPLE PIECES OF INFORMATION OR DOCUMENTATION WILL BE THE CONFIDENTIAL

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RESPONSIBILITY OF A COMMERCIAL SECTION LOCAL EMPLOYEE.

- 2. WHEN WE RECENTLY DISCUSSED ESTABLISHING EMBASSY-CBO CONTACT WITH MINECON IMADIN HE CAUTIONED US NOT TO ASSUME BOYCOTT OFFICE WILL WANT TO SEE US.
- 3. NONETHELESS, WE WILL REQUEST APPOINTMENT FOR EMBASSY

ECON OFFICER AS SOON AS SECRETARY'S PARTY DEPARTS. HE, HOPEFULLY, WILL SEE DEPUTY COMGEN QUDMANI. HE WILL LEAVE WITH QUDMANI BASIC INFORMATION SHEET ON US LEGISLATION AND PRESIDENT CARTER' STATEMENT. HE WILL ALSO USE OCCASION TO ASK IF MASONS HAVE BEEN PUT ON BOYCOTT, AND IF SO, WHY? ONCE CONTACTS BEGIN TO DEVELOP WE WILL REVIEW OUR TACTICS AND SEE IF ANY CHANGES ARE APPROPRIATE.

MURPHY

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Message Attributes

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